

Greenway Committee Meeting Summary

Oct. 19, 2021

Present: Trish Garrigan, Brian Goldberg, Sherry Anders, Marie Elwyn, Betsy Colburn- Mirkovic

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.
2. **Announcements** – Sherry made the usual announcements.
3. **Land Management/Acquisition**
 - a. Farrar Property, 22 acres Little Turnpike – has been sold to a conservationist, the land has no access so unless they also buy adjacent land, it should remain undeveloped, which is good since it is in a water supply protection area.
 - b. There is a piece of land in Shirley owned by Groton, across the river from Bertozzi, 14.8 acres and Groton has asked if we want it transferred back to Shirley. It is contiguous with state land. It looks like we will but it is a long process.

Article 97 deed review – almost done. Brian asked if the Planning Board knows of the effort and if there is any concern that any of these parcels could be some of those considered in the Housing Production Plan. We don't want to use conservation land for housing.

4. Fredonian Nature Center

ADA Implementation Project Update – Town Administrator has submitted for a grant for ADA projects. Brian suggested we get letters of support from Dan Sena and Jamie Eldridge for the grant application and the Town Administrator said he was taking care of this. Sherry talked to Mike Fleming about the invasive plants and what to do about them. He said the best thing to do is remove the invasives, apply herbicide and then replant with native plants – a multi-year process. He gave her the name of a consultant and someone will come do an estimate. Betsy noted there are pesticide free ways of doing it we should consider and she wondered if native plants would even take since it has been a disturbed area. Betsy knows someone with the Ecological Landscape Association who could maybe give us some recommendations. Marie suggested goats could be used to remove the invasives and she knows a lady in Ayer who has goats. She will check with Conservation Commission in the spring about this. Brian asked if there is a Management Plan for Fredonian Park and if not, maybe we could create a one-page list of actions that Conservation Commission would agree with. Betsy said she would check with Meredith on Fredonian Park history.

5. **Forest Legacy** – Letters of support were submitted by Greenway and Board of Selectmen. Deb Flagg has asked to meet with Sherry on Forest Legacy Project.
6. **Mass Wildlife Barrens Restoration Project** – The NRWA Stewardship Council sent in a list of questions. They are checking soils maps to see if it is a restoration project, not sure how decision was made. The Project manager will meet with the Stewardship Council, still more questions than answers.

- 7. Shirley Trails** – Conservation Commission did look at document and Mike Fleming will add a few things and clarify that it pertains to town properties. Sherry will get the next draft and Betsy will also add some edits. Trish noted concern that no more trail work will be done since volunteers couldn't do all that was being asked for. Betsy suggested there could be a less formal process for "trail enhancement." There is still a need for stewardship of the trails and there are some volunteers willing to help. Brian suggested we build a broader coalition, as the OSRP folks are all maxed out. He suggested a monthly guided hike in Shirley be organized and that Jay and Michelle, and maybe Gaynor might help out. They will consider ideas at the next OSRP meeting.
- 8. Public Engagement** – Newsletter to go out soon, it was suggested that Sherry send it to the BOS and other committees, as well as the existing mailing list. In the next newsletter include an announcement about the hike or other actions people could do, not just get on a committee.
- 9. OSRP Update** – Brian reported the Committee needs more help. He noted that Anna Wilkins from North County Land Trust is also doing an OSRP for Ashburnham and they may try to go together to Montachusett Regional Planning Commission to get the data they both need.
- 10. 5/18 Discussion Follow up** – The BOS has voted in favor of a study committee for the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Paul will be presenting on the CPA to the Conservation Commission and would like GW committee members there. Still no action on getting a Town Planner and the concept of a cross committee or department meeting in town seems unlikely given the volunteer nature of the committees and the small number of staff.
- 11. Committee Member Comments** – None
- 12. Public Comments** – None
- 13. Approval of Minutes** – need to address this and get caught up
May 4, 2021, May 18, 2021, July 20, 2021, Sept 2021 (TG) June 15, 2021 (BC) August 19, 2021 (SA)
- 14. Adjourned** at 8:06pm.